

SCOTT RIVER SEDIMENT TMDL

TECHNICAL PROJECT AND PUBLIC PROCESS

TECHNICAL PROJECT

1 Scott River watershed 303(d) listed for sediment

- * Excess fine sediment buries gravel needed for salmon spawning.
- * Influx of sediment fills pools, harming fish habitat.
- * Aquatic invertebrate population low and out of balance parts of the year.



Washed out road in South Fork is a continuing source of sediment to streams.

2 Research Design: Streamside Sediment Sources, Roads, Landslides, Cumulative Watershed Effects

- * **Streamside Sediment Sources:** Estimated from random sampling stratified by geologic substrate.
- * **Road-Associated Sediment Sources:** Estimated by consultant who has access to proprietary data. We spot check results in the field.
- * **Landslides:** Photoinventory of entire Scott River watershed outsourced to consultant using photos of two ages. We spot check results in the field.
- * **Cumulative Watershed Effects of Multiple Interacting Human Activities**

PUBLIC PROCESS

1 Since 1830 Watershed Impacted by:

- * **Beaver trapping:** Destroyed extensive wetlands.
- * **Placer mining in and near streams, hydraulic mining:** Diverted much water, disturbed alluvium extensively, triggered erosion. Delivered sediment to streams.
- * **Farming in Scott Valley and valleys of large tributaries:** Disturbs land surface, destroys much riparian vegetation, uses much ground and surface water.
- * **Timber harvest and extensive road building:** Triggers erosion and mass wasting.



Debris-flow deposit downstream of area of multiple timber harvest.

2 We Organize Stakeholder Group of People and Groups Affected

- * Local ranchers, farmers, concerned citizens.
- * Private timber companies.
- * Siskiyou Resource Conservation District.
- * U.S. Forest Service.
- * Quartz Valley Tribe.
- * CDFG, CDF, NOAA Fisheries, UC Davis, Siskiyou County.



Fine sediment and turbid water at low flow in pasture area having few riparian trees. Moffett Creek



Figure 1.1. Index map showing location of the Scott River watershed and major features within the watershed.

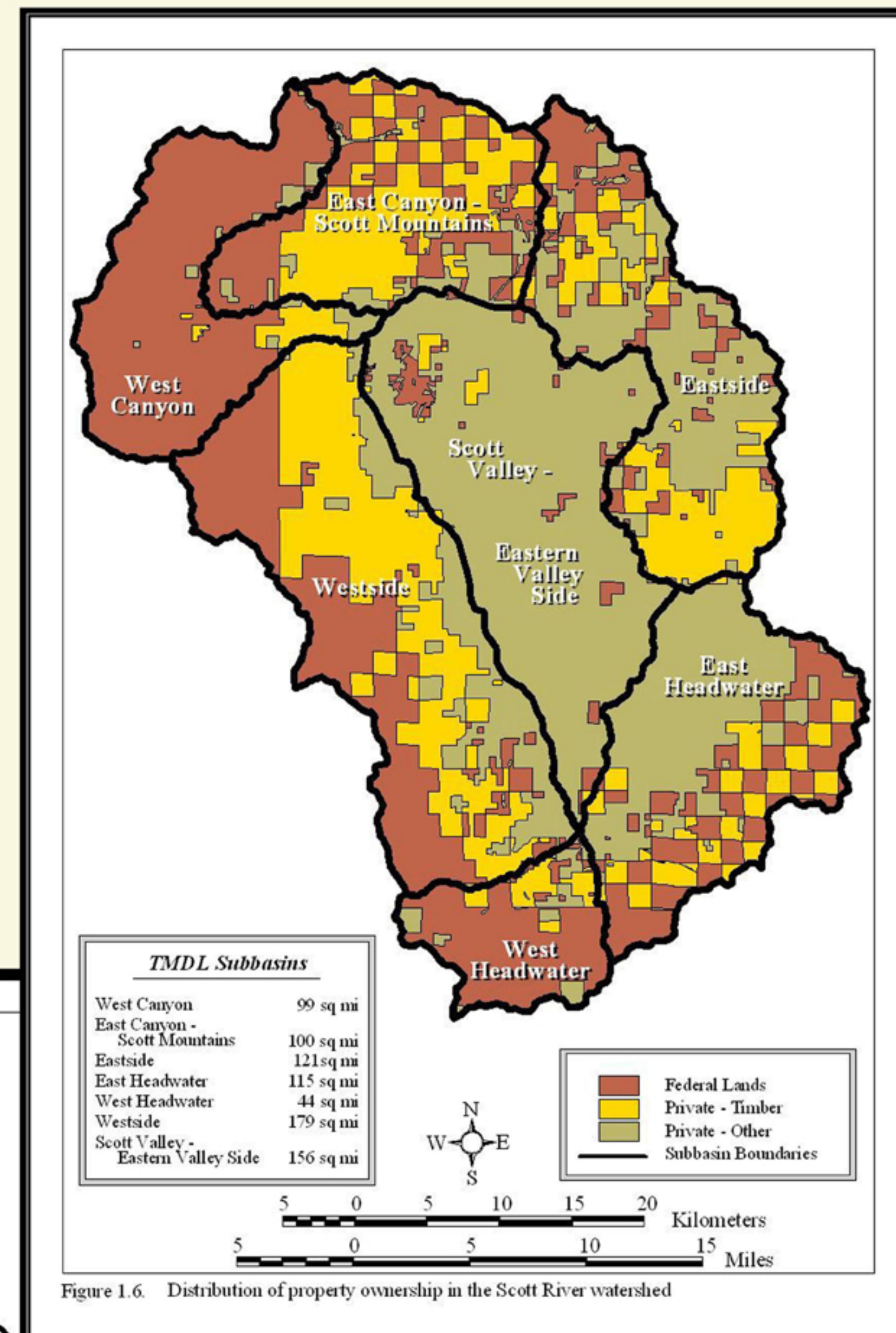
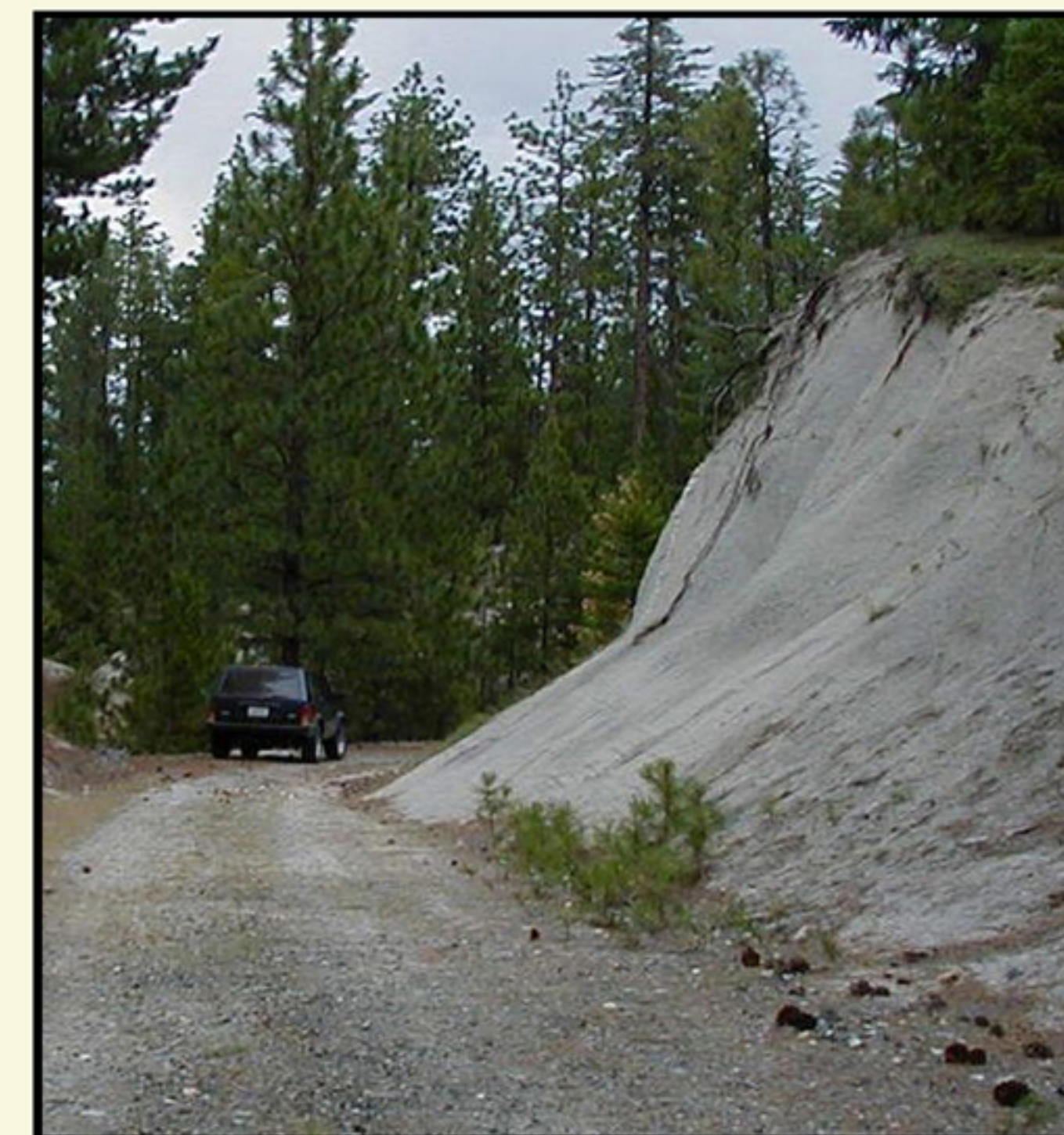


Figure 1.6. Distribution of property ownership in the Scott River watershed



Deeply weathered granite raveling in roadcut to form angle-of-repose slope of sand at base of cut.

What Have We Learned?

- * We must work to make participation in the stakeholder group as inclusive as possible so that no subgroup will feel, or be, left out.
- * When forming a Technical Advisory Group (TAG), develop a clear statement of scope and mission and review with the TAG Frequently.
- * Educate the public, through the TAG and other forums, on the reasons for and methods of the study.
- * Improve project execution through better application of project management tools and techniques.

4 Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- * Draft Staff Report released for public comment September 2005.
- * TMDL Workshop meetings bring in downstream people - fishermen and Indian tribes - who are affected by conditions in the Klamath River but are not residents in the Scott River watershed.



Light colored granite sand fills pool in forested low-gradient stream reach. Marble Mountains.

5 TMDL Presented to Regional Water Board

- * December 7, 2005. We present to Regional Board.
- * Public comment largely from dischargers

6 TMDL Presented to State Water Board

- * June 21, 2006. We present to State Board. Board hears public comment and considers written comments.
- * State Board accepts TMDL and forwards to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval.

4 Public Reactions

- * Timber companies contend that extrapolation of sediment delivery rates from public land to private timber lands is not valid. They object to enforcement.
- * Farmers object to proposed regulation.
- * Downstream tribal and fishing communities feel strongly that they have not been consulted and they are suffering the results of actions upstream. They demand strong enforcement.



Landslide triggered by roads delivers sediment to streams in Marble Mountains.



Hydraulic mining cut from early 20th century continues to deliver sediment to Slide Creek.

5 Reactions and Actions

- * Tribal and fishing communities downstream call for more enforcement, tighter timelines. Cite the Garcia River, near the coast, as an enforcement-backed TMDL that demonstrates improvements.
- * Scott River sediment dischargers mostly support adoption but with reservations.
- * Regional Board adopts TMDL and Action Plan.

6 Reactions and Actions

- * State Board has received many written comments urging both more and less stringent Action Plan.
- * Board required Action Plan to be revised to provide more accountability and relate better to Nonpoint Source Policy.
- * We revised Action Plan for before consideration at June 21 State Board meeting.